

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0018]-[0023] of the specification with the following amended paragraphs:

[0018] With reference to FIGS. 1-3, it can be observed how the 3-way stopcock consists of a cylindrical body or nucleus (1) in which the plug or stopper (4) works and where the principal arm or channel (2) and its ~~a~~-it's two secondary arms (3,3') meet or converge. Between these three arms they communicate or not depending on the position that the plug (4) adopts, which is operated by health care workers via the handle (5). As stated before, the principal arm (2) is assigned to receive an intravenous catheter (11) placed in the patient, while the secondary arms or channels (3, 3') are assigned to receive other catheters or lines (10,10'), whereupon relating the stopcock of the invention with some containers supplying therapeutic fluids, for example: saline solution, antibiotics or any other equal products.

[0019] According to the present invention, the secondary arms (3, 3') that emerge from the body or nucleus (1) in diametric opposition is each configured such that an ~~characterized because respective trajectories run in each~~ initial segment is curved (3a, 3a') and a prolong in final segment of each segments (3b,3b') ~~which run~~ runs parallel to the principal arm (2). The direction of inclination of the curved segments is toward the patient's shoulder. This way, it prevents the problem of occlusion or blocking ~~ehocking~~ of the secondary arms.

[0020] The means ~~[[of]]~~ for coupling (6) that is used for connecting the 3-way stopcock to the corresponding catheters ~~[[is]]~~ can be by universal connectors or luer-lock, which are used in medical practice ~~practise~~.

[0021] When the 3-way stopcock is connected to the intravenous catheter properly placed in the patient's forearm (9) according to FIG. 2, the secondary arms (3, 3') present curved. segments (3a, 3a') which avoid accumulation of solids and therefore eliminate the risk of occlusion of its channels.

By means of the distal segments (3b, 3b') which are the prolongation of the curved segments (3a, 3a') and the catheters (10, 10') remain visibly parallel between themselves and are oriented longitudinally ~~[[in]]~~ along the forearm heading towards the patient's shoulder, that is, in the most ideal position for the catheters (10, 10') connected to the distal segments (3b, 3b') of the secondary arms communicate with the corresponding containers or bottles supplying therapeutic fluids. These bottles usually hang from a support in the form of a "T" placed at the head of the bed. Therefore, in the position in which the stopcock acts, according to the present invention, it turns out to be impossible for said catheters (10, 10') to choke off or kink, thus making difficult or impeding the flow of therapeutic fluids. In addition, the stopcock of the present invention provides for ~~To this advantage it can be added,~~ the non-occlusion of the arms due to the curved portions or segments (3a, 3a') ~~presented in the stopcock of this invention.~~

[0022] The 3-way stopcock present invention is made out of medical grade polymer, this is a polymer resistant to thermal treatment received in sterilization. It does not interact with therapeutic fluids and has to be easy to manipulate, etc. In addition, the initial portions (3, 3') have a high elastic index, which produces a greater capacity to return to its original position. This way, offering provides a stopcock offering ~~which offers~~ greater security for the patient and a higher capacity for manipulation on the part of sanitary personnel.

[0023] ~~[[In]]~~ FIG. 3, ~~it can be observed~~ shows the interior of stopper or plug (4), whereupon ~~appraisal of in which~~ the configuration of the inner channels (4a, 4b) is sensibly in the form of an inverted "V," having ~~being~~ its branches slightly arched so as to permit optimal flow of fluids.